II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for outputting traffic
information in a motor vehicle, in which

   traffic messages are stored together with the respective
   position of the route section or point to which they
   relate,

   the positions of the traffic messages are compared with the
   respective position of the motor vehicle in which the
   traffic information is to be output in order to determine
   the distances between the respective positions in the
   traffic messages and the position of this motor vehicle,

   the traffic messages are sorted and stored as a list in
   accordance to the determined distances, and

   the traffic messages sorted and stored according to distances
   are output as a list sorted according to distances starting
   with the smallest distance.

2. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein
the sorted traffic messages are transmitted to a motor vehicle.

3. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein
the traffic messages are transmitted to a motor vehicle, sorted
there and stored.

4. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the traffic messages which are transmitted to a motor vehicle are continuously updated at predefinable time intervals.

5. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein only traffic messages which relate to a selected area are stored and are subsequently output in the motor vehicle.

6. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the selected area surrounds the position of the motor vehicle in an essentially circular shape.

7. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the selected area can be defined with respect to the particular current position of the motor vehicle as a function of a planned route for a journey, surrounding it in a corridor-like fashion.

8. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein

    each traffic message is transmitted together with an item of updating information which describes the anticipated duration of the general relevance of the respective traffic message,

    the average vehicle speed is detected, logically linked to the distances assigned to the traffic messages and compared with the updating information in order to detect the specific relevance of the respective traffic message, and

3

only traffic messages which have been assessed relevant to the respective vehicle in terms of timing are output.

9. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the updating information of the respective traffic message contains the transmission time, the anticipated duration and the detection time of the reported event.

10. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein:

   first the direction of travel of the motor vehicle is detected,

   the direction of the motor vehicle with respect to the particular position of the traffic message is detected and is compared with the direction of travel, and

   the traffic messages are output sorted according to directions.

11. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 10, wherein a directional factor is formed for each traffic message from the direction of the motor vehicle with respect to the particular position of the traffic message and the direction of travel, which factor is combined with the distance assigned to the respective traffic message to form a local relevance factor which is taken into account during the outputting of the traffic messages.

12. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein a traffic message is output only if its local relevance factor is higher than a predefinable threshold value.

13. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the position of the motor vehicle is detected as a Geocode using a satellite-supported position-determining system, in particular with the GPS (Global Positioning System), and in that the positions of the traffic messages are also provided as Geocodes, with the result that the distances can be determined without further conversion calculations.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method for outputting traffic information in a motor vehicle, in which

traffic messages are stored together with the respective position of the route section or point to which they relate,

the position of the traffic messages are compared with the respective position of the motor vehicle in which the traffic information is to be output in order to determine the distances between the respective positions in the traffic messages and the position of this motor vehicle,

the distances determined are assigned to the traffic messages,

the traffic messages are sorted and stored as a list according to the distances assigned to them, and

5

the <u>sorted and stored</u> traffic messages are then output <u>as a</u>
<u>list</u> starting with that traffic message the distance
assigned thereto is the smallest distance.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A   method   for   outputting   traffic
information in a motor vehicle comprising the steps of:

storing traffic messages relating to a selected area received
    from at least one source with respect to a position related
    to the traffic message, wherein the traffic messages
    received are not limited to a route of the motor vehicle;

determining a distance between the position related to each
    traffic message and a position of the motor vehicle;

sorting each traffic message according to the determined
    distance <u>and storing the sorted traffic messages as a list;</u>
    and

outputting the sorted <u>and stored</u> traffic messages <u>as a list</u>
    starting with a message corresponding to the shortest
    distance.

16.   (Currently   Amended)   A   method   of   providing   traffic
information to a user comprising the steps of:

receiving traffic information for a selected area from one or
    more sources;

the selected area being independent of a relative position of
    the user;

sorting the traffic information according to a distance between a position of the user and a position corresponding to the traffic information and storing the sorted traffic information as a list; and

outputting the sorted and stored traffic information to the user as a list in a manner relative to the distance between the position of the user and the position corresponding to the traffic information.

17. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 16, wherein the traffic information received is not related to a route of travel of the user.

18. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 16, wherein the user predetermines the selected area.

19. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of determining a relevance of the outputted traffic information, the relevance being a factor of at least a time associated with the traffic information, and an estimated time for the user to reach an area associated with the traffic information.

20. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 19, wherein the time associated with the traffic information further comprises a transmission time and a duration of an event related to the traffic information.

21. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of not displaying a traffic message where the duration of the event is less than the estimated time for the user to reach the area.

22. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 19 further comprising the step of outputting traffic messages having a relevance indicating that the user will reach the area before the time associated with the traffic information expires.

23. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 16, wherein the received traffic information is independent of a direction of travel or location of the user.

24. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing the outputted traffic information to the user beginning with traffic information associated with a shortest distance between the position of the traffic information and the position of the user.

25. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 16, wherein the user can select an area not related to a route that has been set.